



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Rio Puerco Mine - NM0243

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Kerr-McGee

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 16'17.54" Longitude 107 degrees 11'52.85"

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: Sandoval County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 03/20/12

Author: MNED

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund <table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> To be performed by: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High											
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low											
<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA												
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM													
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: <u>BLM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
SEND SSSR COPIES TO: <input type="checkbox"/> 6SF-AC <input type="checkbox"/> 6WQ-SP <input type="checkbox"/> ATSDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Agency				

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment on March 20, 2008 at the Rio Puerco Mine site. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) used this information and operational history to develop a Pre-CERCLIS screen. The mine operated as a wet mine. MMD observed an extensive mine operation with a vertical shaft, a large steel structure containing lifts for the now absent headframe, many buildings, storage tanks, electrical transformers (which have leaked), three ponds, and numerous concrete pads. The mine site is accessible to the public, as the site is not completely fenced. The mine site is flat and no erosional features were noted. MMD measured maximum radiation at 600 uR/hr. No residences are located within one mile, but there are two wells within one mile of the mine site. The land surface is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the mineral estate is privately held.

The Rio Puerco Mine currently has a permit to mine, pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, and EPA has issued Resurrection Mining, LLC and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for mine water discharge.

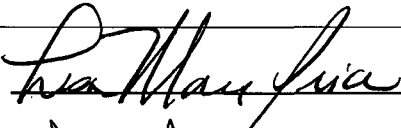
NMED recommended that additional assessments be done to determine the areal extent of elevation radioactivity and to determine the impact to sediments from the mine dewatering and from the dispersal of water materials that remain on the mine site.



Although the Rio Puerco Mine was not addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, August 2011, because it is not considered legacy or abandoned due to its status with the New Mexico Mining Act Rules, reclamation of the Rio Puerco Mine will be overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by: Lisa Marie Price
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 5/25/12

Disposition

Approved by: John Meyer
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 5/29/12